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(54) Title: INTRODUCTION OF MICROORGANISMS IN BIO-ASSISTED HEAP LEACHING OPERATIONS

(57) Abstract: The invention discloses a method of introducing microorganisms into a heap of material for bio-assisted heap leaching by preparing microorganisms substantially without exopolymers on their external cell walls; adding such microorganisms to the heap; and re-activating the production of exopolymers on the external cells walls of the microorganisms in the heap. The invention also extends to a method of enriching the environment of microorganisms' embedded in a heap for bio-assisted heap leaching.